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PROGRAM Empathy STATION WNBC Radio

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AN INTERVIEW WITH ANTHONY SAMPSON

FRED FISKE: Anthony Sampson is a British author who has for many years been on the staff of the London Observer. In September he'll become its chief American correspondent. Mr. Sampson has written several books, the latest of which is titled "The Sovereign State of ITT," published by Stein & Day. It deals with that giant conglomerate corporation of which we've read and heard so much during the last year or two especially, and its role and its influence, and that of multinational corporations generally.

Welcome to Empathy, Mr. Sampson.

ANTHONY SAMPSON: Thank you.

FISKE: What interested you in ITT?

SAMPSON: Well, I've been fascinated for some time by these multinational corporations, the ones that really cross countries and go right around the world, and their political influence as well as their commercial influence, and I call the book "The Sovereign State of ITT" because I get the impression that a company of this kind is really almost a country in itself. In some ways it's more like a country than a company because it has a kind of political influence. It has its own foreign policy, its own diplomacy, its own way of influencing other governments. And what I've tried to do in the book is to try and analyze the nature of that power by telling the particular story of this very astonishing company.

FISKE: Would you say that ITT is the most influential multinational corporation?

SAMPSON: Well, it's one of the very biggest of them, and, of course...

FISKE: The eighth largest?

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